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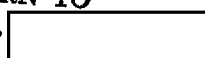
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JAMAICA: Prime Minister talks tough prior to negotiations with foreign-owned bauxite industry.

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JAMAICA: PRIME MINISTER MANLEY HAS ASSUMED A TOUGH POSTURE AS THE JAMAICAN GOVERNMENT MAKES ITS PREPARATIONS FOR NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE FOREIGN-OWNED BAUXITE INDUSTRY. MANLEY HAS REPEATEDLY STATED THAT NATIONALIZATION IS NOT PART OF JAMAICA'S ECONOMIC POLICY, BUT THERE SEEMS TO BE A GENUINE EFFORT BY SOME GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO USE SCARE TACTICS TO INTIMIDATE THE INDUSTRY.

THE JAMAICAN GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN PREPARING TO NEGOTIATE FOR INCREASED BENEFITS SINCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NATIONAL BAUXITE COMMISSION IN JUNE 1972. ALTHOUGH THE COMMISSION'S FINAL REPORT WAS NOT EXPECTED UNTIL MID-1974, MANLEY'S CONCERN OVER THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE ENERGY CRISIS APPARENTLY HAS PROMPTED HIM TO INITIATE DISCUSSIONS AHEAD OF HIS PREVIOUS SCHEDULE. AFTER A SERIES OF SPEECHES LAST WEEK DESIGNED TO CREATE PUBLIC PRESSURE FOR NEW ARRANGEMENTS MORE FAVORABLE TO JAMAICA, MANLEY STATED THAT TALKS WOULD BEGIN IN MID-FEBRUARY.

IN A MEETING WITH THE US CHARGE ON JANUARY 7, THE PRIME MINISTER GAVE AN IMPASSIONED PORTRAYAL OF JAMAICA'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS RESULTING FROM THE WORLD ENERGY CRISIS AND THE SPIRALING COST OF FOOD IMPORTS. HE STATED THAT JAMAICA'S "SURVIVAL" DEPENDED ON SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASED BENEFITS FROM THE BAUXITE COMPANIES. MANLEY SAID NATIONALIZATION WAS NOT BEING CONTEMPLATED NOW, BUT WARNED THAT HIS ATTITUDE WOULD CHANGE IF FORCED BY "THE ACTIONS OF OTHERS."

THE PRIME MINISTER'S VERBAL PYROTECHNICS DURING THE MEETING WITH THE CHARGE PROBABLY WERE DESIGNED PRIMARILY AS A DEMONSTRATION OF HIS PERSONAL COMMITMENT TO OBTAIN INCREASED REVENUES IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. HE ALSO MAY HAVE HOPED THAT HIS EMOTIONAL PRESENTATION WOULD CAUSE WASHINGTON TO CAUTION US BAUXITE OFFICIALS TO NEGOTIATE IN GOOD FAITH. NEVERTHELESS, MANLEY IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY FRUSTRATED OVER HIS INABILITY TO RESOLVE JAMAICA'S ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES AND PROBABLY SEES INCREASED REVENUES FROM THE BAUXITE COMPANIES AS AN EASY "SOLUTION."

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